

August 19, 2015
8:30 a.m.
Newport, Oregon

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City of Newport met on the above date in the Newport Recreation Center.

Members present were Ed Simon, Sandra Surber, Nancy Steinberg, Jennie Scarborough, Geri Kern, Kevin Greenwood, Mark Saelens; City Council Liaison. Absent: Fred Springsteen, Paul Stangeland, Jeff Schrantz, Karen Smith

Staff/Guests Present: Parks and Recreation Director Jim Protiva and John Wray, Newport Swim Team Head Coach.

Action Items

MOTION was made by Greenwood to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2015 meeting. Scarborough seconded. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

Public Comment

Scarborough introduced John Wray, who was recently hired as the new swim team head coach. She noted that he had coached for about 25 years and had moved from Alaska to Newport. Scarborough added that they still needed to fill one of the Assistant Coach positions, as one of them was leaving. Protiva noted that the swim team had been formed over forty years ago and partnered well with the Parks and Recreation Department.

Director's Report

Protiva handed out the monthly report for August and reviewed them with the Committee. Protiva reminded the Committee that the Buccaneer Rampage would be held on August 22nd at the Newport Airport and all were welcome to attend and watch.

Sub-Committee Comments

Municipal Pool: Protiva noted that the newspaper had recently reported that the pool project was over budget by about 1.2 million dollars. He added that with contingency funds, it was closer to \$773,000. He noted that construction prices were lower when they had estimated the project, and by the time bids were received, construction prices had increased. Protiva stated that the full reason the project was over budget was due to substantial items added to the project by staff and committees which were not budgeted for in the bond estimate. Items included are the addition of 1% of construction cost for art, which will be about \$76,000 and the decision to fix the sewer problems that the Rec. Center and Senior Center have, with a cost of about \$50,000. The sewer expenditure was not factored into the budget estimate for construction, but it was determined that this would be the time to resolve the sewer problems while the parking lot and streets were torn up. Protiva noted that he was putting together a memo for the City Manager which would detail the added expenditures. He stated that these issues are the real reason the project is over budget; because things were identified that we didn't know about until after the bond, and now it is a matter of how the project will be funded. At this point it becomes a political issue: will they add to the project or take away some of these things that were added? Protiva noted that another thing that was added was relocating the police parking ramp to exit onto Highway 101 instead of the Rec. Center parking lot. This also added parking spots to the Rec. Center and allowed the 60+ loading ramp to be relocated, which allowed

for more handicap parking. Additionally, covering the entrance to the front which goes down to the new aquatics facility was added, which would give greater control of spectators and keep them from walking through the locker-rooms. Protiva said that this made sense for operations and control, while protecting people from the elements. The cost was estimated to be around \$65,000. Sidewalks on 10th street were added, plus a current channel in the pool at an estimate of about \$35,000. There was also additional site work that needed to be done due to underground conditions that were unknown at the time of the bond. The south side of the parking lot is also an issue. It was estimated that parking spaces cost approximately \$5,000 per space and there was a need for 25 additional spaces. \$125,000 was added to the budget for additional parking. Then it was decided to realign the exit on to 9th street which added about \$270,000. There is also about \$100,000 of civil engineering that is taking place that was not budgeted for because the issues were unknown.

Saelens noted that Tim Gross had reported that no one could have predicted when construction would pick back up and that the plumbing was about 20% higher than previously estimated. For a large project like a pool, 20% is a large amount of money.

Protiva added that they had worked with the contractor to decrease some of the costs using value engineering, which saved approximately \$150,000. There are areas of funding that are being explored to fund the additional costs.

Saelens added that the public needed to know why the project is over budget, including the sewer fixes and the entire parking lot re-working which is not necessarily part of the actual pool project. Saelens pointed out that there have been issues with the parking lot long before the pool project. The public needs to know that the project includes improvements to the whole central area.

Protiva noted that with the work already done, the City was into the project for about \$1 million dollars and although it may need to be reduced somewhat, it would probably be completed.

Steinberg added that the more a large project is delayed, the higher the costs become.

Protiva added that the project would be discussed at the Council meeting on September 8th.

Greenwood asked where additional funds might come from.

Protiva answered that there were several ideas, one was the possibility of going after additional utility funds, or delaying a project that was already on a list, such as street repairs or using money from the general fund or room tax.

Tree City USA: Steinberg handed out information regarding the memorial tree idea that had been previously discussed. She asked that the Committee review the information and discuss it. The idea was that a tree could be planted in memoriam, or a plaque could be attached to an existing tree in memoriam, or both. There are several cities that use this program and she has included that information, which includes the cost. Steinberg added that if the City did decide to develop this program that the funds received should go to the Parks Foundation. She asked Protiva if this was a feasible program as far as staffing and places to plant trees, and what steps would need to be taken to develop it.

Protiva stated that he thought it would work, but the first challenge was to determine what trees could be planted here.

Saelens stated that the Oregon Coast Community Forest Association now owns 17 acres of land about 3 miles out of town. They have a memorial tree component of their organization, but most of their land is already forested with spruce and hemlock, but areas still remain that have been cut and not re-planted. Forest Park is also a place that might be able to be utilized. Saelens added that this could be a very good project for the Committee to develop.

Surber mentioned that they would need a very thorough list of trees, not necessarily native to this area, but would grow well here so people weren't paying for trees that become sickly. It was important that the trees are suited to our area, but being native was not as important.

Kerns stated that she strongly believed the trees should be native to this area and was the number one priority, and number two was that plaques should not be placed on a tree. It was okay to put a plaque in front of a tree, but not on it.

Saelens mentioned that they might be able to use the tree program as part of the landscaping for the new pool project.

Steinberg stated that she would come up with a more specific document to present to the committee.

Rec. Center, Programming, Sports, Events: None.

Foundation: None.

Parks, Trails & Forests: Protiva reported that he had met with neighbors of the potential pump track site and several City officials to discuss the proposed park. He stated the meeting went very well and the neighbors were more open to the idea once the scope of the project was explained. The City Council was updated at its last meeting and the next step would be to make application with the County and get a lease agreement with Wilder and then present it to the City Council for approval.

Saelens noted that the main concern the neighbors presented was the need for additional parking.

Develop Next Agenda

Memorial Tree Program
Pool Project Update

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2015. Steinberg noted that she will be out of town that day and will not be able to attend.

Adjournment

Adjournment - Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.